IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 4, line 20 as shown below:

Recently, however, consensus decoding 140 has been developed. Consensus decoding 140 converts word lattices 135 into confusion sets 145. Consensus decoding is discussed more particularly in Mangu et al., "Finding Consensus in Speech Recognition: Word Error Minimization and Other Application of Confusion Networks," as discussed above. Exemplary confusion sets 145 are discussed in more detail below in reference to FIG. 3. Each confusion set 145 comprises a number of words. A number of ~~confusions~~ confusion sets are concatenated together to create a confusion network.

Conventional processing of ~~confusions~~ confusion sets 145 is performed as follows. Each word in a confusion set is scored. Each of the highest scored words in the confusion network is selected as the most probable decoding of the acoustic event. Selecting and concatenating each word with the highest score creates a consensus hypothesis.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 5, line 4 as shown below:

The embodiments of the present invention take the confusion sets 145 and apply an error correction mechanism 150 and methods to the confusion sets 145. This creates an improved consensus hypothesis 155. As will be explained in more detail below, the error correction mechanism uses a learning process to determine corrective rules. The corrective rules create an improved consensus hypothesis 155, which builds on and improves the original consensus hypothesis determined in conventional consensus decoder 140. Error correction mechanism ~~140~~ 150 is described below in more detail in reference to FIGS. 4 through 7.

Basically, the error correction mechanism ~~140~~ 150 improves speech decoding by selecting particular words from confusion sets. By using the corrective rules, the error correction mechanism ~~140~~ 150 selects a word that does not have the highest score in the confusion set; instead a word having a lower score is selected. The learning

process undertaken by error correction mechanism ~~140~~ 150 allows the mechanism to learn which words, based on features of the confusion sets, should be selected.